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A Kennedy Reappraisal

Following a two-week period which has been almost uniformly dismal, the collapse of the generals' revolt in Algeria comes as a cheerful ray of light.

A courageous old man, General de Gaulle, has repudiated the French *esprit de corps* once more and stayed off civil disaster. This is a tribute to de Gaulle's leadership qualities, and it demonstrates that more than ever in our highly complex world, such qualities are indispensable.

Young Mr. Kennedy, during this same period, has undergone a jarring reappraisal of his own patterns of leadership as President of the United States. Content before the setback in Cuba to rely on his new team of advisers, including some holdovers like Allen Dulles in CIA, he has now decided to take nothing for granted.

Following a 90-day period when the cabinet was called into session only twice and the National Security Council was virtually ignored, Mr. Kennedy during the last week has counseled long and arduously with both groups. But he has done even more. He has consulted with Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater and Nelson Rockefeller.

The Kennedy style, momentarily shaken by massive miscalculations in Cuba, will now be subject to reappraisal. The President will no longer take advice from his counselors at face value. He will dig more deeply before making decisions.

In the process, the Central Intelligence Agency may undergo a major overhaul. Gen. Maxwell Taylor has been assigned

the job of investigating the cause of the Cuban fiasco. He may well come up with recommendations to split the intelligence gathering function from the operational end. The British have long been critical of this combined setup in the CIA which, they say, gives the organization a vested operational interest in proving its intelligence is correct.

But beyond that, the President must decide exactly what can be done, short of actually landing marines in Cuba, to eliminate Castro. Many aspects of Castro's revolution are permanently imprinted on Latin America. The need for social reform, for better economic opportunities down the line, which Castro promised and failed to deliver, is still inherently necessary in any approach to the hemisphere's problems. Troubles will continue all over Latin America as long as the ruling class disregards the revolution of rising expectations now sweeping every nook and cranny of the world.

Unless the United States can offer a program which leads toward such objectives, any military solution in Cuba will have little meaning. It will simply be interpreted in many parts of the world as another power play, and the Communists will use it to subvert other areas to their tyranny.

So the President is wise not to move rapidly in his reaction to the increasing power of a Communist bastion just off the mainland. He must prepare this campaign as carefully as he waged his political fight in West Virginia and a whole lot more efficiently than the first debacle in Cuba.